

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Annual Report of the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) [**Annual Report and Census Report under separate cover**]

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 605.110 (3) (a)-(f), KRS 158.135 (2) (a) (b) (4) 137, 505 KAR 1:080

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The Kentucky General Assembly in 1992 passed Senate Bill 260 establishing the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KRS 158.135) to serve state agency children. In 1994, House Bill 826 broadened the eligibility for state agency children beyond those located in state operated and contracted day treatment, group homes, and residential placements. House Bill 826 expanded the definition of state agency children to include those youth placed or financed through the Cabinet for Families and Children in other residential treatment programs. The General Assembly in 1996 enacted House Bill 117, which established the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice and subsequently transferred responsibility for youthful and public offenders to the new agency. In 1998, House Bill 447 and House Bill 689 further expanded the definition of state agency children to include youth in therapeutic foster care and those confined to state-operated juvenile detention facilities.

KRS 158.135 requires that KECSAC report annually to the chief state school officer. "The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children shall make to the chief state school officer the reports required concerning school services for state agency children and shall file with the Cabinet for Families and Children unit operating or regulating the institution or day treatment center, or contracting for services, in which the children are located a copy of the annual report made to the chief state school officer."

The KECSAC Annual Report, along with the KECSAC Census Report, will be provided to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) under separate cover. Attached is the "Program Improvement Tool – Standards, Indicators, Descriptors, and Evidence."

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

While KECSAC programs and goals are directly related to each of the Kentucky Standards and Indicators for School Improvement, over the last year our Program Improvement Visits have placed specific emphasis on classroom evaluation and assessment (Standard Two), school culture (Standard Four), Student, Family and Community Support (Standard Five),

and comprehensive and effective planning (Standard Nine). Program Improvement Specialists have continued to monitor the educational programs serving state agency children.

KECSAC continues to serve a growing number of state agency children. The allocation for state agency children has remained the same for the past seven years while the cost of educating these students continues to rise. During the coming year, serious consideration needs to be given to a plan for increasing the KECSAC allocation and/or some mechanism for annual increments that will accommodate the increases in the number of state agency children to be served.

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Commissioner of Education

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